

File FHC

24 MAY 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Morris Louis Paintings for
Agency Display

1. On 12 May in a telephone conversation with Vincent Melzac he confirmed his intention to make two Morris Louis paintings available for Agency display. One is the "veil" painting called Gamma which he had previously identified. The other is a large work from an earlier period in Louis' output. He advised that he had discussed insurance with an art critic friend and had concluded that it would be appropriate for the Agency to insure the works for one quarter of their value or \$500~~k~~ for the two. (This will bring our insurance costs down from \$2500 to \$1250.) When I asked about protecting the paintings with a plexiglass enclosure, he suggested that I talk to John Douglas at Artransport.

2. I subsequently had several conversations with John Douglas and on 17 May he advised that he would expect to be able to build the plexiglass enclosures for no more than \$600 a piece. He would prefer to order the materials after he has seen and measured the paintings. He can make the enclosures out of either plain or ~~with~~ reflection-free plexiglass, as we desire. Through special order he will be able to obtain sheets of plexiglass large enough for a simple enclosure.

3. On 19 May I confirmed arrangements with Mr. Melzac. Within the next two weeks he will arrange for the shipment of the paintings from their present location in Canada to Artransport. When Douglas has measured the paintings he will call me with a firm estimate on the cost of the enclosures. Douglas expects that it will take three weeks to obtain the materials but only a day or two to fabricate the enclosures.

[Redacted Signature Box]

Bruce T. Johnson
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

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